

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Tirums ROW
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2006
Proponent:	Leon Tirums
Location:	Section 16 T.17N. R.2W.
County:	Cascade

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Leon Tunis proposes to obtain an easement and construction license for a road to access private property. The proposal would involve State land in section 16 T.17N. R.2W. west of Cascade Montana. The easement and LUL would allow access the private land of the proponent to the south of the State land. The proposal is in addition to a historic ROW by the Sudden Valley Landowners association that would cover existing roads across the State tract.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The state's lessee and adjacent homeowner's association were contacted.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

NA

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. Issuing the easement and LUL as proposed.
2. Not issuing the easement or LUL

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

None. Some minor construction would be done to improve grade and alignment over the existing road/trail. An acceptable route to reduce grade and improve alignment was flagged in as depicted on the attached map. The area involved in new construction would extend approximately 700'. The proposed grade and alignment would limit washing and drainage problems.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

None. No surface water resources are on the proposed easement area and no ground water impacts are expected.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

None. No class 1 zones would be impacted. A minimal amount of dust could be expected during construction but the small nature of the project would limit impact.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

None. No rare plants or cover types were observed on the area involved. Some minimal disturbance would occur but reseeding would minimize impact.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

None. Mule deer and elk frequent the area however the small size of the project would limit any impact. The adjacent land has been subdivided with several owners.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

None. Some Bald Eagle use is present in the general area. No impacts are expected.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

None. No sites are listed and no resources were observed.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

None. Terrain and the location limit the visibility of the project from the adjacent private land. A small portion of the project would be visible from the main road at the junction.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

None. The small scope of the project limits any impacts.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None. The tract is currently leased for grazing. Impacts would be mitigated by requiring the proponent to install gates or cattle guards in fencing to reduce conflict.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES* potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain *POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS* following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

None.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

None.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

None.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

None.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

None. The small scale of the project would limit impact.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

None.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

None. The tract is not accessible except from surrounding private land.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

None.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

None.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

None.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Return to the trust would be approximately 1000.00/a. No impacts are expected.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Robert Vlahovich	Date: 9/13/06
	Title: Spec. Uses coord.	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

I have selected the alternative to issue a construction license, and to recommend approval of the easement request, provided it is in compliance with the future terms for easements, currently under review by the Land Board.

If the access route does not comply with the future easement requirements, or is denied by the Land Board, then a term and condition of the license will be the full obliteration of the route constructed.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

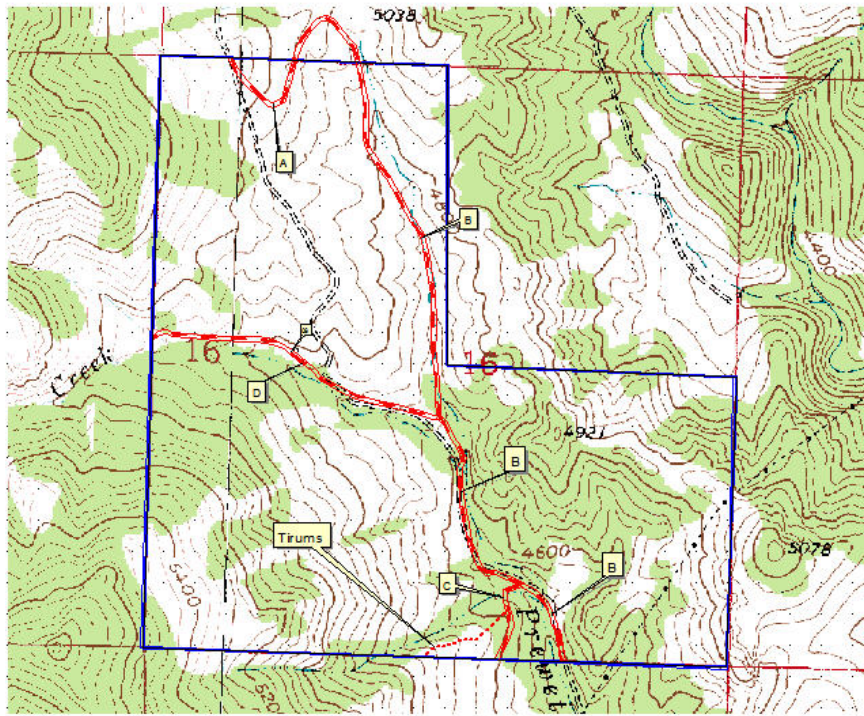
Easement stipulations will limit potential impacts. In addition to standard stipulations a special stipulation to address potential conflict with the current grazing use will be included; Grantee will be responsible to provide, install and maintain gates or a cattle guard, acceptable to the grazing lessee, at ingress and egress points on the State land involved.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

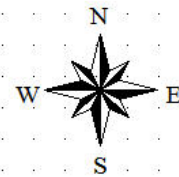
☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: D.J. Bakken
	Title: Helena Unit Manager
Signature: /S/ Darrel J. Bakken	Date: 9/13/2006

**16, T17N, R2W
Prewett Creek
Tirums LUL**



- Outer boundary of trade area.shp
- Tirum est road.shp
- Sudden valley gps rds 7-20-2006.shp
- 17n-2w-16.shp
- H&T-r lines.shp
- Helena unit lands.shp
- Helena unit.shp



0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles